

I welcome you all as we discuss the School Nutrition Programs. Good nutrition is important for good health, and our School Nutrition Programs are a key component of our efforts to provide healthy, nutritious meals to our nation's schoolchildren.

According to the

United States Department of Agriculture which administers these programs, over 1.5 billion school breakfasts and over 4.8 billion school lunches were served in 2004. Of these meals, over 82% of the breakfasts and over 59% of the lunches were served to children from low-income families, for which the overwhelming number of these meals were served as free.

For some of these children, the School Nutrition Programs may be the healthiest, most balanced meals of their entire day. We appreciate the efforts of our school nutrition professionals, many of whom are visiting with us today, for the job they perform to ensure that our young people have a healthy start on life.

The School Nutrition Association (SNA) is a national, non-profit professional organization representing more than 55,000 members, including over 7,000 in the State of Georgia, who every day provide nearly 33 million high-quality, low-cost meals to students across the country. The Association and its members are dedicated to feeding children safe and nutritious meals.

SNA Members work in all aspects of the school nutrition field, from directing school district nutrition and foodservice departments, to conducting nutrition education, to managing individual school kitchens and staffing school cafeterias and kitchens.

SNA has a 59-year history, having been founded the same year the National School Lunch Act passed Congress, an Act which is named for the former Senator Richard B. Russell from Winder, Georgia, who served on this Committee from 1941 to 1946.